

MINUTES
of the
Mental Health Planning Advisory Council
meeting on
August 17, 2004
held at
Legislative Council Bureau
401 S. Carson Street, Room 2144
Carson City, Nevada 89701

I. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS

Judge W. Cooley, Council Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Council Members Present:

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| • Bennett, Bob | • Parra, Debra |
| • Clark, Jerry (for Kevin Crowe, MHDS) | • Richard – Maley, Rebecca |
| • Cooley, Judge W. | • Rodriguez, Jenita |
| • Felesina, Andrea | • Romano, Anna |
| • Jackson, Barbara | • Thomas, Alyce |
| • Johnson, Rosetta | |
| • Kell, Sandra (for Howard Castle, BVR) | |
| • Loftis, Rebecca Ph.D. | |
| • McCabe, Frankie | |

Council Members Absent:

- Lovass – Nagy, Chris

Staff and Others in Attendance:

- | | |
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| • Bennett, Leah – AA | • Dopf, Gloria |
| • Cannizzaro, Michelle – AA | • Pool, Maryann (public attendee – West Hills Hospital) |
| • Zeiser, Andrew – Grant Consultant | • Wherry, Mary |

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Judge Cooley began the meeting by asking if everyone had a chance to review the past meeting's minutes, and if there were any questions or changes. There were no comments.

MOTION: Made by Bob Bennett, seconded by Alyce Thomas, to approve the minutes as submitted.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

The Council was informed that Laura Valentine could not make her presentation due to a family emergency.

III. ANNUAL REPORTS

Chris Lovass – Nagy was unable to give the program evaluation reports of FY 2004 Subgrants.

*Item 7 was taken out of order.

VII. REVIEW OF FY 2005 BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

Andrew Zeiser presented a brief review of the changes that have been made to the FY 2005 Block Grant application. He advised the Council that Friday August 20th is the due date for any comments, questions, or changes that anyone wants to submit.

Mary Wherry asked how the formula was determined to find the percentage of the population of Nevada with mental illness. Brief discussion on this topic followed.

The Council also discussed the possibility of changing the due dates for next year's subgrant applications so that organizations accepted for funding no longer would have to wait several months before actually receiving funds.

Judge Cooley asked Andrew to move to agenda item 5, Review and Approval of FY 2005 Consumer Services Subgrants. He explained that he had not received everyone's scoresheets, and asked anyone who still had theirs to give them to him now so he could calculate the scores during the break. Judge Cooley decided to postpone this agenda item until after the scores could be calculated.

* Item 8 was taken out of order.

VIII. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Bob Bennett began the Seclusion and Restraint report by describing his involvement in the investigation conducted by the Department of Human Resources. He said that

complaints over Seclusion and Restraint at Lakes Crossing have been reduced by approximately 80 percent. In general, Seclusion and Restraint has been reduced statewide throughout psychiatric inpatient facilities, therefore reducing the number of restraint-related deaths.

Alyce Thomas added that at Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services (NNAMHS), they have not had a seclusion in seven months, and are changing their seclusion rooms to “comfort rooms.” She described how the Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) is working to educate staff on how to prevent incidents and teach consumers how to use self-calming techniques to avoid being secluded or restrained.

For the Legislative Report, Anna Romano said she had plans to go the “bill room” to see where mental health bills are going. Judge Cooley said that Dr. Carlos Brandenburg from the Division of Mental Health and Developmental Services (MHDS) had given her a list of Legislators he knew were usually supportive of bills related to mental health in Nevada. She said that she would give this to Anna after the meeting.

Judge Cooley then asked Alyce to talk about the Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) newsletter, The Consumer’s Corner. Alyce said consumers had wanted to publish a newsletter with information about things going on in the state related to mental health, depression, medication therapy, steps to recovery, and resources available to consumers. She also mentioned the Family Support Group held every Tuesday night, and also the Health Insurance for Work Advancement Program (HIWA), which helps consumers reintegrate into the workforce.

*Item 10 was taken out of order.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Judge Cooley asked if the Council members had any new business to discuss. Alyce Thomas said that Angela McCoy from Janssen Pharmaceutica had agreed to provide refreshments for the next Council meeting, but needed to know the date as soon as possible so that she could put it on her calendar and be sure to attend.

Bob Bennett advised the Council that Restart has eliminated the position of Peer Counselor due to the lack of licensing and other issues involving fear of litigation. He asked if the Council would be willing to write a letter to Restart asking for more information regarding specific reasons why the position was eliminated. Judge Cooley asked Bob if he had written on his own behalf to Restart. He explained that he had not because they had told him there would be no further response to any inquiries he made. He also said that he had scheduled a follow-up meeting with the program supervisors regarding his termination, but that the meeting had later been cancelled against his wishes.

Alyce asked what the specific licensing issues were. Bob said they had told him that the Peer Counselor needed a special license to talk about anger issues with peers, for

example. He said he had set up a curriculum before he started, which Restart had approved, so he did not understand why there was a problem after the classes began.

In response to Bob's request for the Council to write a letter to Restart, Judge Cooley asked that Bob first write a letter on his own behalf, and if his letter was, in fact, ignored, then the issue could be brought up another time at a future Council meeting.

The Council broke for lunch so that Andrew Zeiser could calculate the results of the Request for Proposals scores.

* Item 5 was taken out of order.

V. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FY 2005 CONSUMER SERVICES SUBGRANTS

Judge Cooley asked Andrew to give the results of the scoring for the FY 2005 Request for Proposals. Anna Romano brought up a concern about the application from Special Angels of Nevada and whether or not it was actually appropriate for funding. Andrew advised her that it had met the technical requirements of the application criteria, but it was up to the Council members to decide if they really felt it was appropriate for funding. Alyce Thomas said that she had called Special Angels when she received their application to review. She asked them about their program, and they described in detail how they work with children with developmental disabilities. But only when she later identified herself as a member of the Mental Health Planning Advisory Council did they begin talking about how they planned to do some work in the mental health field as well. Alyce expressed concern over this first impression that she was given by Special Angels, and said she felt that they would not use the funds to support mental health programs as much as developmental programs.

Debbie Parra said she had scored this application very well because it was well written, but in the end did not recommend the program for funding by MHPAC. Frankie McCabe explained that she had scored this application low because she felt it did not meet the criteria for mental health programs and was actually more developmental, but she did not reject funding of this program because she had been under the impression that there were enough funds available to fund all of the programs fully. Judge Cooley asked the Council if they felt they should give funds to anyone who sends in a proposal, regardless of whether or not the proposal meets the Council's criteria. Frankie then asked what would happen to the funds if they were not all allocated through the sub grants. Andrew said this could be discussed at the next Council meeting.

MOTION: Made by Barbara Jackson, seconded by Debbie Parra, not to fund this proposal because it does not meet the criteria the Council has defined.

MAJORITY VOICE VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

NOT IN FAVOR: Jenita Rodriquez.

Bob Bennett mentioned that he had some questions about A Rainbow Place and had called them before the meeting. He told the Council about some additional pertinent information. He said that 60 percent of their clients are either runaways or have been kicked out of their houses due to their sexual orientation. They have a psychiatrist on staff part time who can write prescriptions for both children and adults. From talking to the Executive Director of A Rainbow Place, he said he thought a good portion of their services would fall under the Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) category.

Judge Cooley asked if there were any other comments on the remaining three proposals. Andrew said the Council had the option to fully fund all three remaining proposals instead of funding just a portion of them. Judge Cooley proposed that the Council just fund the three proposals the way they had originally planned, and then have the leftover available for use in other areas.

MOTION: Made by Jenita Rodriguez, seconded by Anna Romano, to fully fund the three proposals from: A Rainbow Place, MHA of Greater Nevada Health Centers and hold the remaining funds for other use.

UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE; MOTION CARRIED.

Andrew said he would send notices to the three programs that had received funding, and also would work with MHDS accounting staff to make sure that these programs use the funding in full and that their fiscal recordkeeping is accurate.

Judge Cooley asked if there was any more new business to discuss. Gloria Dopf mentioned that she was going to be replaced on the Council by Frankie McCabe from the Department of Education.

IX. EXECUTIVE REPORT

Judge Cooley did not present an Executive Report at this meeting.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Maryann Pool, a public attendee representing West Hills Hospital, said that she would like to be as much of a community resource as possible, and if the Council ever needed anything from West Hills they would be happy to help.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 pm.